

UNCLASSIFIED

1/13/82

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ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01
NSC-05 NSAE-00 HA-06 L-03 PM-09 PA-01 MCT-02
ICAE-00 SP-02 SPRS-02 /067 W

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R 131614Z JAN 82
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2153
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN
USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA

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CINCSO FOR INTAFF, CINCLANT FOR POLAD

E.O. 12065: GDS 1/13/88 (FRIEDMAN, T.B.) OR-P
TAGS: SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: (U) ONE REAPPEARANCE

REF: BUENOS AIRES 0052

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/TPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny
Exemption(s): _____
Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full
☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to _____
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

1. (U) SUMMARY. ONE 1981 DISAPPEARANCE ENDS WITH THE
REAPPEARANCE OF THE ALLEGED VICTIM. THE OTHER CASE
REMAINS, HOWEVER. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) ONE OF THE TWO DISAPPEARANCES REPORTED REFTTEL
HAS ENDED WITH THE ALLEGED VICTIM RETURNING TO HIS HOME.
ON JANUARY 7 THE FEDERAL POLICE, IN A WELL PUBLICIZED
PRESS CONFERENCE, PRODUCED DANIEL ALEJANDRO DI BERNARDO,
WHOSE DISAPPEARANCE WAS DENOUNCED BY VARIOUS HUMAN
RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS. DI BERNARDO HAD BEEN FOUND --
STAYING WITH HIS GIRLFRIEND IN THE ARGENTINE CITY OF
ROSARIO. ACCORDING TO THE POLICE, DI BERNARDO HAD
"NEVER BEEN DISAPPEARED OR KIDNAPPED. HE WANTED TO
SPEND HIS VACATION WITH THE FAMILY OF HIS FIANCEE
IN ROSARIO." THE POLICE SPOKESMAN WENT ON TO ACCUSE

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HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS, WHICH HAD PUBLICIZED
DI BERNARDO'S DISAPPEARANCE, OF SEEKING TO CONFUSE

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PUBLIC OPINION. DI BERNARDO APPEARED AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH WAS ON TV NEWS. HE CONFIRMED THE POLICE VERSION THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN SEIZED OR MISTREATED.

3. (U) THE CENTER FOR LEGAL AND SOCIAL STUDIES (CELS), HEADED BY EMILIO MIGNONE, QUICKLY REPLIED TO THE POLICE STATEMENT. IN ITS RELEASE, CELS MAINTAINED THAT DI BERNARDO HAD BEEN FORCED INTO A CAR ON NOVEMBER 30, IN FRONT OF WITNESSES, AND WAS NOT HEARD FROM AGAIN UNTIL JANUARY 7. THE CELS STATEMENT IN EFFECT TAKES CREDIT FOR OBTAINING DI BERNARDO'S RELEASE FROM CAPTIVITY AND ARGUES THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS HAVE THE RIGHT AND DUTY TO PUBLICIZE SUCH EVENTS "IN THE FACE OF THOUSANDS OF DISAPPEARANCES." THE CELS STATEMENT ALSO NOTES THAT GERARDO MARIA BRUGO MARCO REMAINS AMONG THE DISAPPEARED. THE POLICE HAVE AGAIN REAFFIRMED THEIR STORY AND RENEWED THEIR CRITICISM OF HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS.

4. [REDACTED] COMMENT: PRIVATELY MIGNONE HAS TOLD US OF HIS CONTINUING CONVICTION THAT DI BERNARDO WAS DISAPPEARED, THAT THE POLICE STORY IS A FABRICATION, AND THAT PUBLICITY ABOUT THE CASE CAUSED THE AUTHORITIES TO REAPPEAR HIM, SO TO SPEAK. MIGNONE SAYS THAT THERE WERE WITNESSES TO HIS ALLEGED KIDNAPPING NOVEMBER 30, ALTHOUGH THESE HAVE NOT BEEN IDENTIFIED TO US.

5. [REDACTED] REGARDING BRUGO MARCO, MIGNONE TELLS
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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US THAT CELS HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO TALK TO ANY WITNESS TO HIS DETENTION. HE SAYS A CAB DRIVER REPORTEDLY SAW THE DETENTION BUT THE ONLY MAN WHO MAY KNOW HOW TO CONTACT THE CAB DRIVER IS BRUGO'S FATHER. THE FATHER IS AVOIDING ALL CONTACT WITH CELS. (THUS WE HAVE NOT SOUGHT HIM OUT.)

6. [REDACTED] MIGNONE TOLD US THAT UNDER THE LAST PERON GOVERNMENT BRUGO HAD CONNECTIONS TO THE FAR LEFT OF PERONISM -- AND PROBABLY TO MONTONEROS. HE DOES NOT KNOW IF THESE CONNECTIONS CONTINUED AFTER 1976. HOWEVER, HE SAYS THAT BRUGO'S GIRLFRIEND AND

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ROOMMATE HAD, DURING A QUARREL, REPORTEDLY
THREATENED AT LEAST ONCE TO TURN HIM INTO THE
AUTHORITIES FOR HIS PAST POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. AT

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CINCSO FOR INTAFF, CINCLANT FOR POLAD

THE TIME OF BRUGO'S DISAPPEARANCE, HE WAS,
REPORTEDLY, IN THE MIDST OF A BITTER TIFF WITH THE
WOMAN. MIGNONE ADDS THAT THIS FIGHT COULD EXPLAIN
WHO BRUGO HAS DROPPED OUT OF THE GIRLFRIEND'S LIFE.
IT DOES NOT EXPLAIN WHY BRUGO CUT OFF CONTACT WITH
HIS FATHER, WITH WHOM HE REPORTEDLY HAD A CLOSE
RELATIONSHIP.

7. [REDACTED] WE NOTE THAT BRUGO'S REPORTED DISAPPEARANCE
TOOK PLACE SHORTLY BEFORE VIOLA'S INAUGURATION WHEN
THERE WERE SEVERAL OTHER SUCH INCIDENTS -- LL TEMPORARY
AND ALL PUBLICIZED BEFORE THE DISAPPEARED REAPPEARED.

8. [REDACTED] FINALLY, THE "EVIDENCE" ABOUT BOTH BRUGO'S
DISAPPEARANCE AND THE "DISAPPEARANCE/REAPPEARANCE"
OF DI BERNARDO REMAINS CIRCUMSTANTIAL -- EXCEPT,
POSSIBLE, FOR MIGNONE'S CLAIM THAT DI BERNARDO'S
GRANDMOTHER, WITH WHOM THE YOUTH LIVED, HAD
RECEIVED TWO OR MORE ANONYMOUS TELEPHONE CALLS
WARNING HER THAT HER GRANDSON FACED THE SAME FATE
AS HIS FATHER. DI BERNARDO'S FATHER, ACCORDING TO

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MIGNONE, WAS DISAPPEARED SOME YEARS BACK.

9. [REDACTED] HOWEVER THE FACTS MAY BE, THIS IS THE NATURE OF THESE EVENTS. DI BERNARDO'S CASE IS CONFUSED. AND MIGNONE AND COMPANY WILL HAVE TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING SOLID IF THEY WISH TO CONCLUSIVELY DISPROVE THE POLICE VERSION. BRUGO COULD HAVE BEEN DISAPPEARED -- AND THIS SEEMS TO US AT THIS POINT TO BE THE MOST LIKELY EXPLANATION. BUT HE ALSO COULD HAVE DISAPPEARED HIMSELF -- DROPPING OUT OF HIS PAST LIFE FOR PERSONAL OR POLITICAL REASONS.
SHLAUDEMAN
[REDACTED]

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